

Archaeology in Leicestershire and Rutland 1982

by Peter Liddle

Tree Ring Dates — results from Leicestershire

Since a tree-ring dating laboratory was first set up at Nottingham University in 1977¹ only two places in Leicestershire have produced samples and given conclusive results, namely the castle at Leicester and Bradgate Park, 6 miles to the north-west. Very recently samples have come from medieval houses at Oakham and Loughborough but these have yet to be processed and results may not be available for some time yet. The results already obtained from the two former places are both of interest and it seems appropriate to put them on record now although work at the castle presently in progress may produce further samples.

In the first two years of the dendrochronology laboratory considerable time was spent locating oak of known felling date to provide reference material against which archaeological samples from either excavations or standing buildings could be dated. In practice this meant long-lived, slow-growing trees recently felled in the East Midlands. Bradgate Park, where felling had taken place in 1975 and 1976 seemed to offer good prospects.

Seven trees were sampled by taking radial segments from their trunks 1.5 to 2m above ground level. The oldest of them (PO1), about 1.6m in diameter, grew on the ridge of high ground just to the north of the road from the Newton Linford entrance to Bradgate House ruins. Its first ring dated to 1595. Two other samples (PO6 and PO7) came from stumps just inside the Newton Linford entrance and the remainder from unspecified locations in the Park. Five proved to have been planted in the early-mid 18th century the dates of their first rings being 1708 (PO5), 1713 (PO4), 1718 (PO6), 1742 (PO3) and 1756 (PO2). The remaining sample (PO7) it was not possible to match with any of the above, probably due to considerable contortion in the ring pattern. Computer comparison of their sequences (PO1-PO6) of individual ring-widths gave correlation values in the range of student's $t = 3.1$ to 14.3^2 (a t value over 3.5 is an indication of a reasonable fit).

These results may be taken to give a reliable indication of the age of some of the larger and more venerable oaks still growing in the Park today. They suggest two phases of planting both of which are probably still represented by standing trees:

1) In the late 16th, early 17th centuries; trees which would reach maturity in late 17th-early 18th century. Other workers have noted an apparent scarcity of native oak of 17th century date in buildings of this period which have been investigated,³ a situation which does not seem to occur in the East Midlands.⁴

2) In the early-mid 18th century to replace mature trees of late 16th century planting felled in late 17th century. Many of the trees in the Park, it is recorded, have been subject to severe pollarding in the past.⁵

The castle at Leicester was established in the latter part of the 11th century.⁶ It was either destroyed or damaged in the early years of the 12th century and its rebuilding and the first construction of the church of St Mary de Castro in stone is attributed to Bruce de Beaumont. His son Robert 'le Bossu' undertook further extensive work on the church in

the middle years of the century and it is to this period that it is generally accepted, the surviving stone hall of the castle belongs.⁷ Architectural details in stone contribute to this dating and even extend to decorative detail on the surviving remains of the substantial timber arcade posts of square cross-section, which have typical Norman scalloped capitals. Much controversy among architectural historians has centred on the date of its roof.⁸ How much of it is original and how much the work of later medieval restorers? The measurement of some 25 samples of its timbers for radiocarbon dating by Berger⁹ while providing confirmatory evidence of the early date of the posts did nothing to settle the controversy about the roof.

This was due to some extent to the difficulties involved in taking the samples which made it impossible to relate them to the growth of the timbers from which they came. So that in theory any sample was just as likely to have come from the centre as from the outer hardwood or sapwood. By contrast dendrochronology gives a close indication or sometimes determines to the year the life-span of the timber, its relationship to other timbers of the structure sampled and when it was felled, providing an altogether more reliable basis upon which to assess the date of original construction and of any subsequent repair(s).

The interior of the hall was originally of open plan two rows of posts dividing it into a nave and aisles of six bays and it seems to have retained this plan until comparatively recent times. A reconstruction was undertaken at the beginning of the 18th century when the wall on the east side was taken down and replaced by the present brick facade. At least two of the posts on this side seem also to have been replaced about this time by classical style columns and a spiral staircase erected leading to a room above the entrance.¹⁰ But in another major reconstruction in 1821 the interior was subdivided on the ground floor into a courtroom on either side of an entrance lobby from which stairs rise to small rooms over the lobby and west aisle at first floor level. In the course of this work the surviving posts on the east side were truncated first above their capitals and their ends underpinned by inserting horizontal beams, the ends of which were supported on brick piers.

A single piece of one of the posts survives from this drastic reconstruction. It includes its scalloped capital.¹¹ As the roof timbers are inaccessible for dendrochronological analysis at least for the present, this piece seemed to offer the opportunity to check the accepted date of the original construction of the hall.

The post had been formed from the trunk of a mature straight-grown oak of length 7.6 to 8.2m and of basal diameter in excess of 71cms. The capital had been sawn from the post by a straight through cut above it and by a step cut to the centre below it. Thus three separate surfaces were available for examination at intervals of 17cms and 30cms up the post. The centre was badly decayed and all sapwood had been removed by the medieval carpenters. The three cross-sections were sanded and polished using a hand-held electrically powered disc sander initially and a block and sanding paper of various grades for the final polishing. Three radial measurements of the ring widths were made, one on each of the exposed surfaces. This ensured that the maximum possible number of rings was measured and also provided an independent check that no rings were missed in any of the radii, always a hazard when dealing with narrow ring sequences from slow-grown, long-lived trees. The three sets of measurements were then compared with each other and matched in the manner described by Baillie and Pilcher,¹² and by graphical comparison. The matching positions having been fixed the measurements were then averaged to make a single floating chronology which was run on the computer against dated UK reference chronologies. It was found to give good matches against six, the best being with those of Fletcher¹³ against his REF 6, $t = 4.8$ and his REF 7, $t = 3.8$ and that of Hillam for Exeter¹⁴ $t = 3.9$. These matches date the rings on the Leicester sample between 909 and 1122 A.D.

Unfortunately it is impossible to be certain that none of the outer hardwood rings have been lost. All that can be said is that an oak of over 200 years growth might be expected to have 30 ± 9 rings of sapwood when 9 is the standard deviation¹⁵ and that the minimum felling date of 1152 ± 9 years thus arrived at comes very close to the construction date for the building proposed by architectural historians.

The decay at the centre of the post is not very extensive and perhaps accounts for the loss of about 30 rings. So it seems likely that the individual trees used for the posts of the Hall were oaks of at least 270 years growth and began their lives in a Midlands' forest c.880 and were felled c.1150 A.D.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Graham Morgan of Leicester University who drew our attention to the possibilities of Bradgate Park; also to the Park Ranger and the Management Committee who gave permission for the work to take place. Dr David Orton of Nottingham kindly lent a chain saw and assisted with the sampling. At Leicester Castle Mr G.D. Brigham and Mr Dickens of the LCC Property Department kindly gave permission and made the necessary arrangements for the work to be carried out.

We have been assisted in this work by grants from the Science Research Council and the Nottingham University Research Fund.

R.R. Laxton, C.D. Litton, W.G. Simpson and P.J. Whitley

Notes

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A Late Bronze Age Site at Glenfield (SK 537054) — Interim Report

During the summer of 1982 the disturbed remains of a previously unknown Late Bronze Age site were discovered during routine fieldwalking on a housing development site in Glenfield.

The site lies to the south of the village on ground falling northwards from Kirby Frith to the Rothley Brook, and is located on the interface of two ecological zones, being situated on the junction between the Keuper Marls of the valley slopes and the glacial sands and gravels, succeeded by boulder clays on the higher ground to the south.

Material recovered from the site includes numerous flints and potsherds together with two items of bronze. The pottery and flint scatter extends over an area of approximately one hectare. No structural or other features have yet been located.

In excess of one hundred struck flints have been found, distributed fairly evenly over the site. These include three implements: a scraper, a small retouched flat core which was probably used as a scraper, and a small blade.

Potsherds from the site number over six hundred and are several different fabrics. The majority of the sherds were recovered from topsoil stockpiles, suggesting the disturbed nature of the site. The commonest fabric type, which accounts for about ninety per cent of the total, consists of sherds varying in colour from brick red to dark brown and containing medium to large grains of quartz tempering material. There is one decorated sherd in this fabric, bearing impressed triangles. The second fabric type is of dark brown colour containing no inclusions. Again one sherd is decorated, this time with finger tip impressions. The third fabric type consists of only a few sherds of orange/brown, thin-walled fabrics, gritty in texture but containing no inclusions. One sherd bears an incised linear design. Only one small sherd of the fourth fabric type has been found. This is of light grey/brown colour and contains some quartz inclusions.

A comparison of the Late Bronze Age pottery from Glenfield with material from other Leicestershire sites of the same period has revealed strong similarities in the fabric types.

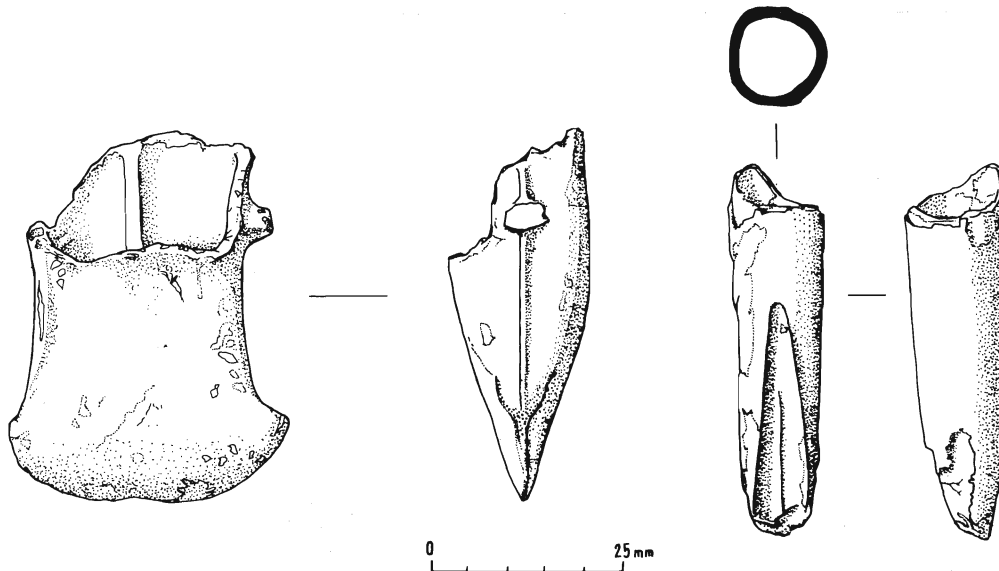


Fig. 1 Axe

Fig. 2 Wood working gouge

The two bronze implements, both socketed, comprise an axe (Fig. 1) and a woodworking gouge (Fig. 2). The axe was found approximately two hundred metres to the north of the pottery/flint scatter and is only about half complete and has a battered, crescentic cutting edge. The gouge was found on the northern edge of the pottery/flint scatter, and is also battered around the tip.

Mr Peter Liddle of Leicestershire Museums has examined the material with the following observations. Socketed gouges are believed to have been introduced at the beginning of the Ewart Park Metalworking Phase in about 900 BC and continued to be produced in the succeeding Llynfawr phase down to 600 BC. This gives us a basic date for the site, while the axe, though only half complete, appears to be of 'South-Eastern Type' typical of the Ewart Park phase, suggesting a possible date of 800 BC \pm 100 years (Burgess & Coombs 1979). This fits well with the possible date of the pottery. This appears to be a plain-ware assemblage as defined by John Barrett and he has previously noted associations between such assemblages and Ewart Park metalwork. For the *Thames Valley* he suggests a range for such pottery from the end of the second millennium to the ninth century BC. Evidence from Lincolnshire suggests similar dates in our own region (Barrett 1980). Further fieldwork in 1983 will hopefully provide more information as to the nature of this site and its inhabitants, prior to its destruction.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Andrew Millgate for drawing the finds and the ready co-operation of the developers, David Wilson Homes Ltd.

Edward Tura

Lockington (SK 480294)

Survey work was carried out in the cropmark sites at Ratcliffe Lane, Lockington in a joint project between Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Field Unit and the Burleigh Archaeological Fieldwork Group, directed by Patrick Clay and Jack Ashby.

Detailed survey including phosphate sampling, fieldwalking and trial sondages were carried out on the settlement site west of the Roman Villa site. The aim of this was to establish the potential survival of archaeological horizons on this site in view of the long term threat from gravel extraction.

Phosphate samples were taken from the plough soil at 10m intervals over the whole site with the aim of establishing the areas of greatest activity or possible middening. Six trial sondages at intervals over the site were also made to examine the soil horizons and possibly establish the amount of previous plough disturbance. The potential for environmental information surviving was also examined in view of the close proximity of marshy areas to the north of the site. Following this the site was fieldwalked with plotting to 1m accuracy.

The sondages revealed that the site was possibly sealed below a fine sandy loam deposit and was not being subjected to intensive plough damage. The lack of fieldwalked material found may reinforce this with the plough failing to reach the archaeological levels. The phosphate samples await analysis but in view of the evidence from the sondages and fieldwalking, they may only contain evidence of recent activity. No evidence of the survival of environmental evidence was found, however.

From this work it is probable that the archaeological levels on the site are not badly

plough damaged. The lack of material from the site however makes dating of this cropmark uncertain. Further work includes a resistivity survey of the two cropmark sites and a field-walking of other adjacent areas of similar topography.

Patrick Clay

A Watching Brief and Excavation at Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire

During development of the Meriden Business Park adjacent to the motorway approach road, the chance was taken to investigate features observed over the previous decade. Roman tile had been noted at SK 549007 when a pylon was built, and the discovery of several sherds of Roman pottery and more possible brick or tile fragments suggests Roman occupation. Earthmoving revealed a possible roadway four to five metres wide running for over 100 metres from near the above grid reference (where a stone feature had previously been noted in a stream bank) towards the A46 traffic island.

Similar stone features were noted in parallel streams at SK 551009 and at SK 550009, possibly joined by a low earth embankment. A small excavation at the second point revealed broken stones for a distance of four metres just below the grass, but the feature was disturbed. At the first point an area seven metres by six metres was opened next to the stream. Grey clay and sand overlay a stone surface which was set into sand and gravel. Below this were two further layers of slightly smaller stones and finally clay. In the stone surface were tile and brick fragments and an unidentified low-fired clay object. Animal bones and teeth (including sheep, deer, horse and cow) were found on the stones as well as Medieval pottery including Potters-Marston-type wares. Compacted sand was noted.

In view of the domestic material this site should be considered unlikely to be a ford or road, but more likely to be the courtyard of a Medieval occupation site. It is hoped to carry out more work in 1983.

Peter Godfrey

An Early Saxon Pottery Fragment from Mountsorrel (Fig. 1)



A hitherto unnoticed Anglo-Saxon pottery base of highly unusual form has been noted during routine work in Jewry Wall stores. It is accessioned as 325. 1956/1 and was donated by G. Gale of Mountsorrel. It is a small pedestal foot ring of 45mm diameter. It is well-fired, quite coarse grey ware, slightly micaceous with common angular white quartz grits. Almost certainly this is the base of a small biconical Pagan Saxon urn. Vessels of this type are comparatively rare in England, the only Leicestershire examples being from Thurmaston (urns 17 and 97A). The pot is comparable with the continental *standfusschalen* series particularly Van Es type 1 D which at Wijster are dated to the late fourth and fifth centuries. On the basis of this, the English examples of this form are generally regarded as being of mid to late fifth century date and may be indicative of the earliest phases of settlement in England.

The exact provenance of the fragment is unfortunately uncertain. It is merely given as 'Mountsorrel'. At the same time as this gift, Mr Gale also gave material from Mountsorrel Castle, probably from the 1952 excavations. In view of the lack of any other Anglo-Saxon pottery amongst the material from the excavation (recently donated to Leicestershire Museums by Mr F. Ardron as A6.1983) there seems no reason to extend the provenance

to this sherd. The recognition of this sherd does, however, add another site to the series of Anglo-Saxon sites known in the Soar Valley between Leicester and Loughborough at Thurmaston, Wanlip, Cossington, Rothley, Barrow-on-Soar and Loughborough itself.

P. Liddle and P.W. Williams

Leicestershire Committee for Archaeology in Schools

The Leicestershire Committee for Archaeology in Schools consists of archaeologists and teachers in liaison over the study of archaeology in schools. It aims to promote this study either as a single subject, as part of a humanities course or in a primary school context. To this end it offers guidelines, lists of resources and organises in-service training schemes for teachers. Two of these courses have been held at Beaumanor Hall. In addition to talks and discussions on different aspects of archaeology, practical sessions including pupil's participation were held. These included the construction of a one-third size Iron Age house, a ditch and rampart reconstruction, spinning, weaving and kiln firing. It is hoped that the success of these two courses may lead to others.

A termly newsletter is now being sent out to all schools in Leicestershire including reviews of relevant literature, places to visit and up to date news about the archaeology of the area. Robert Croft of Soar Valley School, the committee's Chairman, has also been involved in the Council for British Archaeology's schools committee. He edited the Science and Archaeology booklet published by the CBA in 1982 as part of their Schools and Archaeology series.

Hopefully, increased co-operation between archaeologists and teachers will bring about greater understanding of the subject and its potential as part of a school curriculum.

Patrick Clay (Secretary)

Bury Camp, Ratby — a new look at the earthworks (SK 498058)

Bury Camp has traditionally been described as a Roman fort. A mortarium sherd was found in 1938 and reported in Kenyon's Jewry Wall Report suggesting the possibility of Roman occupation, but recent discoveries of Iron Age and now Late Bronze Age pottery comparable to that from Glen Parva and Glenfield indicate a more complex history.

From all the most recent evidence it now looks most likely that the earthworks are those of a univallate 'hill-fort' of the Iron Age period. The identification as a Roman fort has been on general shape and because there are four breaks in the bank. However, only the western entrance appears to be original. The north and south gaps are off-centre and can be attributed to the cutting of an enclosure hedge across the side in 1773, while the eastern gap (again off-centre) was probably cut for access to Hollywell Farm (built c.1754). The earthwork formed part of the land of the farm and the gap would have allowed stock to have been driven into the field conveniently created by the earthworks.

Recent work by A.E. Squires indicates that in the Medieval period Bury Camp was part — and an important part — of the deer-park of Burgh, which, indeed, seems to have taken its name from the earthwork. This park appears to have had a short life, for by the 16th century it is described in the Minister's Accounts for Ratby as merely pasture.

Although the broad outlines of the history of this site are undoubtedly correct, the story is a complex one and much more remains to be discovered.

Mike Ball

Leicestershire Archaeological Field Unit — Annual Report 1982

The major event of this year has been the agreement to transfer the Unit staff (four field

officers and the Roman Pottery Assistant) to the permanent establishment of the County Council. The effect of this decision has already been apparent in a greater feeling of security and consequent rise in morale as more energy can be channelled into work instead of worry. As time goes on the effect should also be felt in the greater flexibility which will be possible when staff time and salaries are no longer so irrevocably linked to projects put forward a year before.

The year has seen a series of fluctuations in numbers and faces at Humberstone with one change in the permanent staff and the appearance and disappearance of YOP and CEP employees. Helen Clamp left us at the end of September to get married and accompany her husband to America. Luckily Richard Pollard, who replaced her as Roman Pottery Assistant, was able to take up the post in November and his several years' experience in this field of research more than makes up for the slight loss of time and the need to become familiar with the local material. Rosie Woodward has once again been with us for nearly a whole year, working in particular on material from South Croxton. John Harrison joined us on the YOP scheme at the end of January and did useful work in sorting and classifying some backlog excavation material before he moved down to Jewry Wall to assist the Survey team. Adrian Brown on the CEP scheme, has been with us since February and has made a major contribution by entering all the Austin Friars material on the computer. He has also been able to identify and catalogue the animal bone from several smaller excavations. In September the personnel was further augmented by Victoria Brandon who has also assisted in the data in-pu programme and whose help in drawing medieval pottery has been invaluable. Both Adrian and Vicky will be with us until the end of March 1983 and we are going to miss them very much after that. The archaeology supervisor for the YOP and CEP schemes was Ann Rainsbury who master-minded so much of our computer programming, so once again we were able to avail ourselves of her considerable expertise during the first months of the data-input programme. Ann finally departed in August to take up a post at Chepstow Museum; she was part of the Humberstone scene for several years in one capacity or another and saw us through all the initial stages of computerisation and our main regret is that she will not be here to see the results of all her work. After several false starts, data in-pu finally began towards the end of April 1982. By the end of the year about 6000 entries had been made covering many different types of object and several excavations. Our satisfaction in this achievement however must be marred by the fact that in January 1983 the possibilities of up-dating and correcting these entries and retrieving the information seem as far away as ever.

1982 was the first time for a number of years that the Unit has undertaken no major excavations. Most of the effort this year has gone into post-excavation work and steady progress has been made on a number of sites. It begins to look as if several of these will come to fruition at about the same time — in 1983-4. Work is proceeding on South Croxton, Bath Lane, St Nicholas Circle and the Roman and medieval defences of Leicester. Meanwhile another version of the Austin Friars report has been prepared for publication, designed, we hope, for more popular appeal. The nearest the Unit has come to excavation has been to conduct watching briefs on work on the castle mound in Leicester and in the area of the Grey Friars and to offer advice on small amateur excavations at Wigston Magna and Newbold Verdon. In addition Cass Clay has collaborated with the local fieldwork group at Lockington in a survey of this major site to assess its potential for excavation.

A new departure for the Unit this year was to give a series of talks on Roman Leicester for a group of blind people. The project was viewed with a certain amount of trepidation but proved in reality to be extremely rewarding. Cass Clay has also contributed to a series of daytime lectures on archaeology organised by Mike Moore in collaboration with the City

Adult Education Centre. Terry has also organised a further series of archaeological excursions to the chambered tombs of the Cotswolds (including a visit to the Rare Breeds Centre), the Lincolnshire Fens and the Roman town of Verulamium (St. Albans).

All in all, the year has been one of consolidation and of steady rather than spectacular progress. This does not make for excitement but nevertheless provides a firm basis from which to move forward and 1983 should see advancement on several fronts.

It remains to thank all those who have contributed to finding the solution to the Unit's staffing problems and easing the relationship with the DOE, in particular Museum Director Patrick Boylan, our DOE Inspector, Philip Walker, the support of the Advisory Committee led by the Chairman Alan McWhirr, and of Alan Chinnery, now Deputy Director of the Museums. The support of Unit staff too should be acknowledged during a difficult and often depressing year for all concerned. With all this behind us, the way should be clear in 1983.

J.E. Mellor

Report of the Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team 1982

The personnel of the Survey Team has remained constant throughout the year. Peter Liddle has continued to co-ordinate the work of the Community Archaeology Groups which continue to provide such valuable information from around the County. Six editions of the newsletter, 'The Fieldworker', have appeared and speakers at the full group meetings have included Allen Chinnery, Alan McWhirr, Anne Tarver, John Field, Peter Liddle and Jim Pickering. A day-school for new field-walkers was also arranged.

One of the highspots of the year was the publication of the two volume *Leicester Archaeology — the present state of knowledge*. Volume 1 had to be re-printed after selling out before the end of the year. Fieldwalking continued in the block of parishes around Medbourne with encouraging results in the previously unpromising Anglo-Saxon and Prehistoric periods.

Anne Cookson continued to develop her work in planning liaison, working with County and District planners and with other statutory bodies such as the Severn-Trent Water Authority, the Gas Board, the National Coal Board. Work has also continued in accessioning archaeological material in the new computerised format. Advances have also been made in the accurate identification of flint artefacts with the help of Ms Elizabeth Healey.

A watching brief was undertaken at Tixover on the re-aligned A47 which led to some rescue excavation and the opportunity was taken to begin a fieldwalking programme in the parish. Other watching briefs generated by the planning liaison work undertaken at Grove Farm, Enderby, Sapcote Castle, Welby deserted village, Horsepool Grange, Greyfriars Leicester and Lubbethorpe.

The extensive help of John Harrison and Andrew Millgate, both on the Youth Opportunities Programme, is gratefully acknowledged. Both worked enthusiastically and increasingly skilfully throughout their time with the Team. Fred Hartley has continued his work in recording earthwork sites in the County. The following sites have been surveyed in detail: The Spital (Castle Donington), Hamilton D.M.V., Leigh Lodge, Old Parks (Ashby de la Zouch), Worthington (village earthworks), Ashby Magna (village earthworks), Dunton Bassett (Manor House site), Leire Moat, Far Coton (village earthworks), Snarestone (village earthworks), Ashwell (village, mill and garden earthworks), Tickencote (village earthworks), Sysonby (moat), Welby Grange, Seagrave (hollow way, fishponds and manor house complex), Thrussington Grange, Wardley (village earthworks), Ridlington, Teigh (village and manorial earthworks), Clipsham (village earthworks), Brooke (gardens,

fishponds, etc), Essendine (village earthworks), Greetham (village earthworks), Ayston (old gardens), Stocken Hall (garden terraces), Stockerstone (formal gardens, fishponds etc.), Blaston (village earthworks), Tilton (moated site), Chilcote (garden earthworks), Tonge (village earthworks), Welby deserted village, Misterton (moated site), Thorpe Arnold (garden earthworks and village), Martinthorpe (deserted village), Cold Newton (earthworks of Roman site), Horn (deserted village), Horsepool Grange (moat), Seaton (village earthworks), Ingthorpe (shrunken hamlet), Tinwell (village earthworks and ponds) and Thistleton (ponds).

Eleven reconnaissance flights were made by kind invitation of Mr J. Pickering. Conditions for cropmark production were not very good but several new sites were discovered, and the opportunity was taken to obtain better photographic records of a great many known sites. Lectures on aerial archaeology were given in Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Hinckley and Leicester.

Work is well advanced on the production of two publications about the earthwork sites of Rutland and of North-West Leicestershire. An article on Rutland cropmark was published in the *Rutland Record*.

The Team would, as usual, like to thank all members of the Fieldwork Groups for their enthusiasm, the farmers for their co-operation and our colleagues for their encouragement.

Peter Liddle, Anne Cookson and Fred Hartley

Reports of Fieldwork 1982

Fieldwork in Leicestershire 1982

ARNESBY (SP 6192)

A Neolithic polished stone axe has been found in the garden of 'The White Cottage'.

BARBY THORPE (SK 649079)

Fieldwork by the Hamilton Fieldwork Group has revealed a scatter of thin-walled hand-made pottery close to that reported in these *Transactions* LVI, 116. Some is similar to local Anglo-Saxon pottery but it may all be Late Bronze Age. There is also thick hand-made prehistoric pottery with rectilinear decoration and a fabric comparable to Early Bronze Age collared urns.

BARBY THORPE (SK 633084)

Fieldwork by the Hamilton Fieldwork Group has recovered a small scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery as well as the flint scatter reported in these *Transactions* volume LVI, 116.

BARBY THORPE (SK 638086)

Fieldwork by the Hamilton Fieldwork Group has located a flint scatter including a 'thumbnail' scraper in the area of a general stone scatter.

BLASTON (SP801944)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team have discovered a substantial (probable) Anglo-Saxon pottery scatter (about 90 sherds). In the same area were found some flint implements and at least one sherd of prehistoric pottery. A general (probably manuring) scatter of Roman pottery was also noted

CASTLE DONINGTON (SK 439290)

David Osborne has discovered a timber and stone structure apparently relating to a former course of the River Trent. No date can be suggested but it is hoped that dendrochronology may throw some light on this.

COALVILLE (SK 418514)

During fieldwalking by A. Hurst and P. Saunders of the North-West Leicestershire Archaeological Group an Acheulian hand-axe of Lower Palaeolithic date was found, also nine other flints of later date, including a scraper and a possible plano-convex knife.

DESFORD (SK 473044)

Mike Ball reports the discovery of a scatter of Roman grey-ware on the east side of Lindridge Lane.

EATON - PIPER HOLE 1 (SK 756260)

The Melton Fieldwalking Group reports a scatter of Romano-British pottery in and around a depression in the ploughsoil approximately 25 metres across consisting mostly of grey wares with colour coated wares, red and white mortaria and a head made from baked clay. Building stone, some burnt, was also present.

EATON - PIPER HOLE 2 (SK 755262)

The Melton Fieldwalking Group reports the discovery in a slight depression in the ploughsoil of Roman pottery consisting of thinner grey wares than those of Piper Hole 1, Samian, decorated colour-coated ware and mortaria sherds.

EATON - PIPER HOLE 3 (SK 757267)

The Melton Fieldwalking Group reports, also in a slight depression in the ploughsoil, Romano-British pottery consisting mostly of grey wares including the neck of a grey ware flagon, colour-coated wares, mortaria and other wares.

EATON - PIPER HOLE 4 (SK 759273)

The Melton Fieldwalking Group reports the discovery in a slight depression in the ploughsoil of Romano-British pottery consisting mostly of grey ware, with some decorated white wares and colour-coated wares.

EATON - GOADBY MARWOOD (SK 7826)

J. Burke reports the discovery of 32 Roman coins (predominantly third and fourth century), brooches, a ring and some pottery in the replaced top-soil of the former Goadby Marwood quarry which is the site of an extensive Roman settlement destroyed by iron-stoning in the 1950s.

ENDERBY (SK 550002)

Fieldwalking by Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team on a sub-circular enclosure site photographed from the air by Professor St Joseph and Mr Pickering revealed a scatter of Late Bronze Age pottery, Anglo-Saxon pottery and a pottery spindle-whorl. The finds of both periods grouped nicely over the crop-mark suggesting that the enclosure was Late Bronze Age but remained as an earthwork in the Saxon period.

FRISBY-ON-THE-WREAKE (SK 688173)

Mr R. Pinfold of Frisby Local History Society has continued to watch rabbit burrows that have previously produced substantial sherds of Late Iron Age wheel-thrown pottery. This year a sherd of Ancaster-Breedon ware, of a type normally considered earlier than anything previously found, has also been collected. (see *T.L.A.H.S.*, vol LIII, 88 for earlier finds).

GLENFIELD (SK 537054)

See report above.

GREAT EASTON (SP 843944)

The Great Easton Archaeological Fieldwork Group report a scatter of flint artefacts found during fieldwalking. These include a discoidal implement, three scrapers and two cores. The dating evidence available, suggests the Neolithic period. One sherd of Saxon pottery was also found.

GREAT EASTON (SP 850927)

Ms Wallis has collected material from the spoil alongside the brook after cleaning. An examination of the section by Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team showed that the material mainly came from rubbish pits cut by the stream. The bulk of the material is Saxo-Norman, including much Stamford-type ware, and the pits seem to be of this date, although some thirteenth/fourteenth century, some post Medieval, and two sherds of Roman pottery were also present.

HINCKLEY (SP 442947)

Mr J. Pickering has discovered Roman pottery, tile, tesserae and a quern fragment, indicating the site of a Roman villa.

HOSE (SK 737295)

Mr R.G. Hunt reports that a small excavation (about 10 feet by 12 feet in area) in the garden of 'The Grey House' produced over 2,000 pieces of pottery from the 10th? to the 14th century AD. About 30% of the total was Stamford-type ware. From other evidence the site probably marks the location of the late Saxon/Early Medieval manor house. It also produced a few pieces of 4th? century Roman pottery, a further piece being found on a building site at the other end of the village.

HOSE (SK 736293) The foundations of an eastward extension to the chancel of the church were noted during installation of a new oil pipe.

KNOSSINGTON (SK 802085)

A pebble-hammer with hour-glass perforation has been found at 'Rose Cottage'.

LEICESTER - WESTERN PARK (SK 557042)

During the construction of a 'Bicycle Motor-Cross' Track which involved earth moving, Mr Bailey, the Archaeological Survey Team and Mr Tura all collected material from the site. This included Roman pottery and tile, and flint scrapers and flakes.

LEICESTER - HUMBERSTONE (SK 628069)

The Hamilton Fieldwalking Group have found a flint scatter, including several blades and a thumbnail scraper.

LOCKINGTON (centred SK 480294)

Fieldwalking and resistivity surveying has been undertaken by Burleigh Archaeology Group on this Roman villa and adjacent Iron Age-type settlement site revealed by aerial photography. A large number of tile fragments and tesserae were recovered and some Roman pottery.

LUBBESTHORPE (SK 543011)

R.P. Jarrett reports that a mains water-pipe has been laid through the deserted village site. Many large stones, some up to half a metre in diameter, were seen in the spoil heaps, together with pottery in some places. Pottery was also found on the exposed surface associated with dark soilmarks. This included Potters Marston, Lyveden, Nuneaton and Midland purple-type wares. Many large sherds came from the same vessel, a Midland purple cistern.

LUTTERWORTH (SP 5484)

A butt- and side-faceted greenstone Neolithic axe has been found in a garden.

MEDBOURNE (SP 798924)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team have located an extensive flint scatter including scrapers, blades, cores, a discoidal implement and a laurel-leaf bifacial point. An early Neolithic date seems possible.

MEDBOURNE (SP 792938)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team have located a flint scatter including scrapers, flakes and cores. It is perhaps Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age in date.

MEDBOURNE (SP 791939)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team have discovered a scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds. The pottery is hand-made and undecorated but is not more closely dateable than Early or Middle Saxon.

MEDBOURNE (SP 790937)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team have found a small number of possibly Mesolithic flints, and a microlith comes from the field immediately to the north.

MISTERTON (SP 560838 and 562839)

Lutterworth Archaeological Fieldwork Group have located two round barrows in ploughed land. The more westerly of the two is well preserved, lying partly in a garden and partly in the field. It stands about a metre high. From immediately adjacent to this barrow the Group recovered a fine plano-convex knife of Early Bronze Age date which may well have come from a burial disturbed by the plough. The second barrow shows well on J. Pickering's aerial photographs but on the ground is only discernible as a shallow rise in the field surface.

MISTERTON (centred SP 560840)

Lutterworth Archaeological Fieldwork Group have examined the fields sloping gently to the River Swift immediately north of the barrows mentioned above. They have discovered a substantial scatter of flint including a tanged arrowhead, two barbed and tanged arrowheads, two transverse arrowheads, many scrapers (including end and thumbnail

scrapers), blades, flakes and cores. There is clearly a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age settlement (contemporary with the barrows) as well as earlier occupation, probably Mesolithic and/or Earlier Neolithic.

MISTERTON (SP 583845)

Lutterworth Archaeological Fieldwork Group have located a group of flint artefacts including end scrapers, cores and flakes.

MISTERTON (SP 574836)

Lutterworth Archaeological Fieldwork Group have found a flint scatter including a chisel-ended arrowhead, a possible oblique arrowhead, scrapers, blades and flakes. A Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date seems possible.

MOUNTSORREL (SK 571157)

Two large sherds of Roman pottery were picked up by the farmer.

PEATLING MAGNA (SP 594924)

Mr John Rawlings has reported the discovery of thirteenth century pottery during the digging of a new pond in an area of earthworks west of the church.

PEATLING MAGNA (SP 606923)

Mr John Rawlings has found a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery.

RATBY (SK 495058)

Mr Michael Ball has found a sherd of hand-made black and burnished shelly-fabric pottery in the field next to Ratby Bury. The pot may either be Iron Age or Saxon.

SAPCOTE (SP 500929)

Part of a bronze axe has been found near the Fosse Way. It is too fragmentary to be sure if it is a flat axe or a broken palstave (dating from the Early or Middle Bronze Age respectively).

SEAGRAVE (SK 618174)

Mr Dick Hood reports the discovery by the farmer of 16 sherds of Roman pottery, one sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery, and 34 sherds of Medieval pottery, seven fragments of ridge-tile as well as four roof-slates. In the immediate vicinity is a T-shaped set of fishponds. Taken with the Medieval building material this suggests the site is that of the manor-house.

SLAWSTON (SP 775941)

The Slawston and Hallaton Archaeological Fieldwork Group report a closely-grouped scatter of Roman (and possibly Late Iron Age) pottery. No stone was noted.

SPROXTON - BESCABY (SK 819259-820255-822255-825258-828255)

The Melton Fieldworking Group reports an extensive flint scatter of many worked flints, including a leaf shaped arrowhead, a barbed and tanged arrowhead, two halves of arrowheads, blades, side and end scrapers, cores, hammer stones etc. Fieldwalking in adjacent areas may reveal a further spread.

SPROXTON - STONESBY (c.SK 826233)

Mr T. Hickman reports the discovery of an iron spearhead with a split socket, from the Roman villa site reported in these *Transactions*, LI (1975-6), 63. It is best paralleled amongst Early Anglo-Saxon spearheads.

STATHERN (SK 775307)

An Anglo-Saxon trefoil-headed small-long brooch of late fifth/early sixth century date has been found by Mr J. Brown.

SUTTON CHENEY (SK 412011)

Mr Killick has found a small copper alloy Roman figurine in the form of a Roman soldier.

SWEPSTONE (SK 367106)

Mr A. Hurst reports a scatter of Anglo-Saxon pottery west of St Peter's Church.

THURLASTON (SK 499003)

Mr R.P. Jarrett of Huncote Fieldwork Group reports that a low ridge traceable for over 500 metres corresponds to the boundary of Leicester Forest suggested by Fox and Russell in 1948.

THURLASTON (SK 500999)

Mr R.P. Jarrett and Huncote Fieldwork Group have found an oval hollow straddling the southern boundary of the field formerly known as 'Castle Court' (1882). Six sherds of Roman pottery were found in the centre of the field about 100 metres from the earthwork. These include splayed flange and hammerhead mortaria, grey ware and one possible black burnished sherd.

WANLIP (SK 596105)

The Birstall Archaeological Fieldwork Group have discovered a flint scatter including scrapers, flakes and blades. It may well be of Earlier Neolithic date.

WIGSTON MAGNA (SP 609977)

A trial excavation has been undertaken on a Roman site by Wigston Historical Society, and a ditch and other features were revealed.

Fieldwork in Rutland 1982

BARLEYTHORPE (SK 858102)

An Anglo-Saxon spearhead was found in 1980, an isolated surface find. Leaf-shaped blade with asymmetrical fullering on each side, circular split socket, slightly bent, corroded, length 211mm. M.J. Swanton, *Spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements* (RAI 1973) type K2. (D.G.J. Gibson)

CASTERTON, GREAT (TF 001087)

Bronze coin of Gratian found in churchyard (Rev W.W. Page).

EMPINGHAM (SK 944085)

Bent bronze stylus, Roman, surface find in tree nursery, 1980 (A.S. Ford).

EXTON

Nuremburg jetton, found in garden of Stamford Lodge (per RCM).

NORMANTON (SK 931060)

Tanged flint arrowhead, surface find (J. Kayley).

OAKHAM (SK 857087)

Stamford ware rim sherd, edge rouletting, found in garden of 5 Braunston Road (RCM 1982.37).

RIDLINGTON (SK 835019)

The scatter of flint reported in *T.L.A.H.S. LV* (1979-80), 97 has again been walked by Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team. Definite occupation scatters have been localised and the Mesolithic dating confirmed (RCM 1982.28).

TIXOVER (c. SP973999)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team have located a small flint scatter near the River Welland, and a group of building material, slag and pottery from a Roman occupation site north of the church. The pottery ranges in date from the 2nd to the 5th centuries AD, and there is also a sherd of possible Early or Middle Saxon date. (RCM 1982.5).

TIXOVER (SK 972007 to 977007)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team carried out a watching brief during realignment of the A47 road, and recorded house platforms, wall foundations, iron working structures and part of an enclosure ditch with entrance, north of the present village. The remains date to the Late Saxon and Early Medieval period. (RCM 1982.4 and 1982.32)

TIXOVER (SK 973011)

Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team confirmed a scatter of Roman pottery associated with a stone spread and slag, probably from a Roman occupation site. (RCM 1982.31)

WARDLEY (SK 830003)

Assorted medieval pottery, surface finds (RCM 1982.17).

WHISSENDINE

Farthing token of T. Roberts, Stamford, 1659, found in garden of 20 Foxhill (H. Dickinson).